

A system for applications, such as imaging, lithography, data

storage, and inspection, includes an optical element, at least one structure, and a source of light. The structure is at least partially in and at least adjacent a surface of the optical element. The source of light has a mode profile that provides an electric field which has a vector component substantially perpendicular to a surface of the optical element. The source of light is positioned to propagate at least a portion of the light through the optical element onto the object. The structure enhances the electric field of the light which optically interacts with the object.